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REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated March 24, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 24, 2005. Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the following remarks in response to the Office Action.

DRAWING OBJECTIONS:

The Office Action Summary indicates that the Figures filed on February 20, 2004 are objected to, but such objections are not set forth in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants believe that a response to such is not deemed necessary to fully respond to the Office Action.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

Claims 1-19 stand objected to. Applicants have amended claim 1, thereby obviating such objections. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of such objections.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

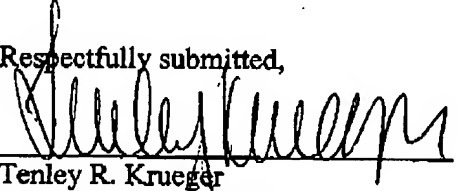
Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,657,025 (*Blackmon*).

Applicants have added new claims 13 and 14 to reflect the discussion of May 3rd. As agreed, *Shamshoum I* and *Shamshoum II*, either alone or in combination, do not teach, show or suggest the new claims, nor claim 12, *e.g.*, the titanium content of 1.7-2.2 wt.%. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

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In conclusion, Applicants submit that the references cited in the Office Action do not teach, show, or suggest the claimed features. Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,


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